

House File 44

HOUSE FILE _____
BY TYMESON, BOAL, and
CHAMBERS

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to postsecondary education opportunities by
2 establishing a jump-start grant program for the postsecondary
3 education expenses of students who graduate early from high
4 school and by requiring school districts to publicize
5 available postsecondary education opportunities.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

7 TLSB 1332YH 82

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261.89 JUMP-START GRANT PROGRAM.

1 2 1. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. A jump-start grant program is

1 3 established to be administered by the commission.

1 4 2. ELIGIBILITY. A grant under the jump-start grant

1 5 program may be awarded to a resident of Iowa who meets the

1 6 following criteria:

1 7 a. On or after July 1, 2007, received a high school

1 8 diploma from a school district not later than the end of the

1 9 semester or school year in which the student is enrolled as a

1 10 junior.

1 11 b. Is admitted and in attendance as a full-time or part-

1 12 time resident student at a community college, an institution

1 13 of higher learning under the control of the board of regents,

1 14 or an accredited private institution.

1 15 3. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of the grant awarded to an

1 16 eligible student shall be as follows:

1 17 a. To a full-time student, an amount equal to the state

1 18 cost per pupil or five thousand dollars, whichever is greater.

1 19 b. To a part-time student, an amount equivalent to the

1 20 amount paid to a full-time student, but prorated based on the

1 21 number of semester hours, or the trimester or quarter

1 22 equivalent, for which the part-time student is enrolled.

1 23 4. EXCESS GRANT MONEYS. Notwithstanding subsection 3, if

1 24 the grant amount exceeds the amount necessary to pay the

1 25 student's educational expenses for an academic year, the

1 26 commission shall retain the excess grant moneys for the

1 27 student's educational expenses for not more than the following

1 28 two consecutive academic years. If the student fails to

1 29 enroll and attend a community college, an institution of

1 30 higher learning under the control of the board of regents, or

1 31 an accredited private institution by June 30 of the third

1 32 consecutive academic year, the grant moneys retained for the

1 33 student by the commission shall revert to the general fund of

1 34 the state.

1 35 5. REFUND. If the student discontinues attendance before

2 1 the end of any term after receiving payment of the grant, the

2 2 entire amount of any refund due that student, up to the amount

2 3 of any payments made under the annual grant, shall be paid by

2 4 the institution to the state.

2 5 6. DEFINITIONS. As used in this section, unless the

2 6 context otherwise requires:

2 7 a. "Accredited private institution" means an institution

2 8 of higher education as defined in section 261.9, subsection 1.

2 9 b. "Commission" means the college student aid commission.

2 10 c. "Community college" means a community college

2 11 established under chapter 260C.

2 12 d. "Educational expenses for an academic year" means the

2 13 following:

2 14 (1) Tuition and fees normally assessed a student carrying

2 15 the same academic workload as determined by the institution,

2 16 and including costs for rental or purchase of any equipment,

2 17 materials, or supplies required of all students in the same
2 18 course of study.

2 19 (2) An allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and
2 20 miscellaneous personal expenses, including a reasonable
2 21 allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a personal
2 22 computer, for a student enrolled at an accredited private
2 23 institution, community college, or board of regents'
2 24 university in a course of study including at least six
2 25 semester hours, or the trimester or quarter equivalent of six
2 26 semester hours.

2 27 (3) An allowance, as determined by the appropriate
2 28 accredited postsecondary educational institution, for room and
2 29 board costs incurred by the student which shall be based on
2 30 the expenses reasonably incurred for room and board at the
2 31 institution by a student without dependents.

2 32 e. "Full-time student" means an individual who is enrolled
2 33 at an accredited private institution, community college, or
2 34 board of regents' university for at least twelve semester
2 35 hours, or the trimester or quarter equivalent.

3 1 f. "Part-time student" means an individual who is enrolled
3 2 at an accredited private institution, community college, or
3 3 board of regents' university for at least three semester
3 4 hours, or the trimester or quarter equivalent, but for less
3 5 than twelve semester hours, or the trimester or quarter
3 6 equivalent.

3 7 7. ELIGIBILITY ESTIMATION. The department of education
3 8 shall annually provide to the general assembly an estimate of
3 9 the number of sophomore high school students in Iowa who, in
3 10 the next succeeding school year, will be eligible to receive a
3 11 high school diploma.

3 12 8. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
3 13 chapter 17A to administer this section.

3 14 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 279.65 PUBLICIZE HIGHER EDUCATION
3 15 OPTIONS.

3 16 The board of directors of each school district shall
3 17 publicize in, at a minimum, the school district's student
3 18 handbook and on the school district's web page, the higher
3 19 education opportunities available to students enrolled in the
3 20 school district, including opportunities provided under the
3 21 jump-start grant program established in section 261.89 and
3 22 under the postsecondary enrollment options Act, chapter 261C,
3 23 and the availability of classes offered under
3 24 district-to-community college sharing agreements.

3 25 EXPLANATION

3 26 This bill establishes a jump-start grant program for Iowa
3 27 high school students who, on or after July 1, 2007, receive a
3 28 diploma from a public high school by the end of their junior
3 29 year. The students must be residents of Iowa who are admitted
3 30 and in attendance as full-time or part-time resident students
3 31 at an accredited Iowa postsecondary institution. The program
3 32 is to be administered by the college student aid commission.

3 33 The amount of the grant awarded to a full-time student is
3 34 an amount equal to the state cost per pupil or \$5,000,
3 35 whichever is greater. The amount to a part-time student is
4 1 prorated. However, if the grant amount exceeds the amount
4 2 necessary to pay the student's educational expenses for an
4 3 academic year, the commission is directed to retain the excess
4 4 grant moneys for the student's educational expenses in the
4 5 next two consecutive academic years. If the student fails to
4 6 enroll and attend an accredited Iowa postsecondary institution
4 7 by June 30 of the third consecutive academic year, the grant
4 8 moneys retained for the student's use by the commission revert
4 9 to the general fund of the state.

4 10 The bill directs the department of education to annually
4 11 provide the general assembly with an estimate of the number of
4 12 high school sophomores in Iowa who, in the next succeeding
4 13 school year, will be eligible to receive a high school
4 14 diploma.

4 15 The bill also requires the board of directors of a school
4 16 district to publicize in, at a minimum, the school district's
4 17 student handbook and on the school district's web page, the
4 18 higher education opportunities available to students,
4 19 including opportunities under the jump-start grant program and
4 20 under the postsecondary enrollment options Act, and classes
4 21 offered under district-to-community college sharing
4 22 agreements.

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